

Message Text

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15

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 DHA-02 VOE-00 INSE-00 SCA-01 /015 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1529

UNCLAS BANGKOK 21670

FOR : D/HA/ORM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, TH

SUBJ: EPP TRAVEL

REF : BANGKOK 21580

1. AS OF 30 JULY, TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE EPP CASE LOAD HAD DEPARTED FOR CONUS, LEAVING A BIT LESS THAN 7,500 PEOPLE TO MOVE IN AUG, SEPT, AND OCT, OR AN AVERAGE OF 2,500 PER MONTH.

2. LOOKING AT THE 2635 AIRLINE COMMITTED SPACES FOR AUG, AND REFTEL, WE SEE THAT ICEM ALREADY HAS SPONSOR CABLES ON 1371 REFUGEES THAT ARE CLEARED TO MOVE (LINES 1 AND 3, PARA 2, AND "AUG" OF PARA 5) LEAVING A BALANCE OF 1129 SPONSORSHIPS TO COME TO MEET THE 2500 AVERAGE. TO MAINTAIN THE "FLOW" OF REFUGEES TO CONUS, OR RATHER, TO INCREASE THE FLOW TO A RATE OF 650 OR SO PER WEEK, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT ICEM RECEIVE THE SPONSORSHIPS AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE. FOR EXAMPLE, ALTHOUGH THE 1019 PEOPLE LISTED AS "BOOKED" IN REFTEL ALL HAVE CONFIRMED SEATS THROUGH 22 AUG, THERE ARE FLIGHTS RANGING BACK TO 15 AUG THAT NEED BODIES TO FILL "BLOCKED" SEATS. IN ADDITION, ICEM HAD TO CANCEL 50 SEATS ON A 9 AUG AF CO FLIGHT, AND 30 SEATS ON A 11 AUG NW FLIGHT, BECAUSE OF LACK OF SPONSORSHIPS. THERE ARE ALSO 60 SEATS ON A 17 AUG LH RUN, WAITING FOR REFUGEES, WHICH NEED SPONSORSHIPS PRIOR TO 7 AUG.

3. TO MEET THE 8-10 DAY SPONSOR NOTIFICATION DEAD-LINE, ICEM NEEDS THE SPONSORSHIP VERIFICATION CABLE 12-15 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE, UNCLASSIFIED

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TO ALLOW TIME TO CONTACT THE REFUGEE FAMILY AND TO INSURE THAT THEY

ARE, INDEED, READY TO TRAVEL (IE, NO BIRTHS/DEATHS, BROKEN LEGS, ADD-ONS, ETC). THEREFORE, THE 1129, OR APPROX 1300 TO ALLOW FOR PROBLEM CASES, SPONSORSHIPS NEEDED FOR AUGUST TRAVEL MUST BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO 15 AUG, WITH THE BULK OF THEM RECEIVED PRIOR TO 8 AUG. SPONSOR VERIFICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER 15 AUG WILL, FOR THE MOST PART, BE SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER TRAVEL.

4. AS OF COB 2 AUG, ICEM HAS 1413 BOOKED SEATS BY REFUGEE NAME FOR PERIOD 1-17 AUG AND AN AVAILABILITY OF 1695 SEATS FOR 18-31 AUG.

5. WHAT ARE CLOSE-DOWN DATES FOR LABOR DAY WEEKEND? ICEM HAS 400 SEATS AVAILABLE FOR 1-2 SEPT DEPARTURE (2-3 SEPT ARRIVAL). IS IT OK TO SHIP? WHEN CAN ARRIVALS IN CONUS BE RESCHEDULED?
WHITEHOUSE

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